

## MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER LICENSURE

### *Licensure Requirements*

◆ Master's degree with a mental health therapy focus from a regionally accredited program and includes graduate course work in the following:

- A. Practicum with at least 300 clock hours of direct client contact, under supervision of qualified supervisor
- B. At least 1 credit hour of graduate course work as follows:
  - 1. Theories and Techniques of Human Behavior
  - 2. Intervention
  - 3. Professional Ethics and Orientation
  - 4. Assessment Techniques Related to Mental Health
  - 5. Practice
  - 6. Human Growth and Development
  - 7. Research and Evaluation

◆ 3,000 hours of supervised experience gained after receipt of the master's degree, but within 5 years of the date of application. (as of 9/1/97 requires a Provisional License to earn the 3,000 hours)

- 1. includes at least 1,500 hours of direct client contact;
- 2. remaining hours may include, case management, research, observation, etc
- 3. supervision must be under a licensed mental health practitioner, licensed psychologist or licensed qualified physician and must meet with the supervisor face-to-face one hour per week.

◆ Pass the examination appropriate to the applicant's educational background.



- Social Work degree – ASWB Clinical Examination
- Counseling Related degree - NBCC Counselor Examination (NCE) OR NBCC Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination
- Marriage and Family Therapy degree or related degree - MFTRB Examination

◆ Attain the age of majority and have good moral character.

◆ Submit the appropriate applications and pay the licensure and examination fees.

In addition to the Mental Health Practice license, an individual may wish to specialize in ***Marriage and Family Therapy***, ***Professional Counseling*** and/or ***Social Work***. A specialized certification may not be held independently (except Social Work) and each specialized certification may have additional educational and supervisory requirements.

### *What Services can a Mental Health Practitioner Provide?*

The provision of treatment, assessment, psychotherapy, counseling, or equivalent activities to individuals, couples, families, or groups for behavioral, cognitive, social, mental, or emotional disorders, including interpersonal or personal situations; and includes the initial assessment of organic mental or emotional disorders for the purpose of referral or consultation.

Mental health practice does not include: 1) the practice of psychology or medicine; 2) prescribing drugs or electroconvulsive therapy; 3) treating physical disease, injury, or deformity; 4) diagnosing major mental illness or disorder except in ***consultation*** with a qualified physician or licensed psychologist; 5) measuring personality or intelligence for the purpose of diagnosis or treatment planning; 6) using psychotherapy with individuals suspected of having major mental or emotional disorders except in ***consultation*** with a qualified physician or licensed psychologist; or 7) using psychotherapy to treat the concomitants of organic illness except in consultation with a qualified physician or licensed psychologist.

***Consultation*** means a professional collaborative relationship between a licensed MHP and a licensed psychologist or qualified physician in which (1) the consultant makes a diagnosis based on the information supplied by the MHP and any additional assessment deemed necessary by the consultant; and (2) the consultant and the MHP jointly develop a treatment plan which indicates the responsibility of each professional for implementing elements of the plan, updating the plan, and assessing the client's progress.

***Major mental disorder*** means any mental and emotional disorder in which the following behaviors occur or might reasonably be expected to occur regardless of specific diagnoses or the nature of the presenting complaint:

1. persistent and/or severe suicidal or homicidal thinking and/or behaviors
2. persistent and/or severe behaviors injurious to self and/or others
3. psychotic symptoms which include delusions, hallucinations, or formal thought disorders; or
4. physical complaints or signs suggestive of deterioration or anomaly in physiological, psychophysiological or neuropsychological functioning.

Such disorders include: schizophrenia, major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, delusional disorder, psychotic disorder, panic disorder, and obsessive compulsive disorder.

## PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANT

### *Educational Requirements*

◆ Master's degree from an approved program in clinical, counseling, or educational psychology OR an Educational Specialist Degree in school psychology.

◆ Must be supervised by a Licensed Psychologist.

◆ All documentation must be co-signed by Supervisor.

### *What Services can a Psychological Assistant Provide?*

May administer, score and develop interpretations of psychological testing under the supervision of a licensed psychologist.

## LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST

### Licensure Requirements

- ◆ Doctoral degree from a program of graduate study in professional psychology from an institution of higher education that is accredited by the American Psychological Associations (APA) or meets the standards of accreditation adopted by the APA.
- ◆ Two (2) years of supervised professional experience:
  1. One (1) year must be an APA internship or meets the standards of accreditation adopted by APA
  2. One (1) year must be supervised postdoctoral experience
- ◆ Pass the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) and the Board developed Ethics examination.
- ◆ Attain the age of 21 and have good moral character.
- ◆ Submit the appropriate applications and pay the licensure and examination fees.

### *What Services can a Licensed Psychologist Provide?*

Observation, description, evaluation, interpretation, or modification of human behavior by the application of psychological principles, methods, or procedures for the purpose of preventing or eliminating symptomatic, maladaptive, or undesired behavior and of enhancing interpersonal relationships, work and life adjustment, personal effectiveness, behavioral health, and mental health. The practice of psychology shall include, but not be limited to, psychological testing and the evaluation or assessment of personal characteristics such as intelligence, personality, abilities, interests, aptitudes, and psychophysiological and neuropsychological functioning; counseling, psychoanalysis, psychotherapy, hypnosis, biofeedback, and behavior analysis and therapy; diagnosis and treatment of

mental and emotional disorders, alcoholism and substance abuse, disorders of habit or conduct, and the psychological aspects of physical illness, accident, injury, or disability; psychoeducational evaluation, therapy, remediation, and consultation; and supervision of qualified individuals performing services specified in this section. Psychological services may be rendered to individuals, families, groups, organization, institutions, and the public.

## SPECIAL LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST

### *Licensure Requirements*



As of 9-97, this licensure category is no longer offered; however, approximately 20-25 persons hold a special license to practice Psychology.

### *What Services can a Special Licensed Psychologist Provide?*

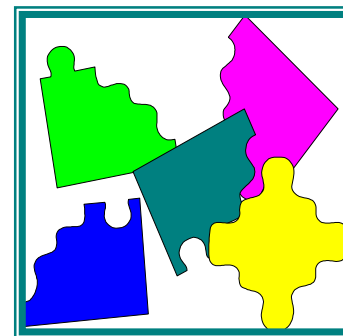
Same as defined for the Licensed Psychologist, except a Special Licensed Psychologist:

- Shall not supervise mental health practitioners.
- Shall not independently evaluate persons under the Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act.
- Shall not independently diagnose and treat major mental and emotional disorders; such shall be done under the supervision of a licensed psychologist.
- Shall disclose supervisory relationships to clients or patients for whom supervision is required and to third-party payors when relevant.



# Licensure Requirements

## Mental Health Related Professions



Mental Health Practitioners (Master's Degree)

- Marriage and Family Therapist
- Professional Counselor
- Social Worker

Psychological Assistant (Master's Degree)  
Licensed Psychologist (Doctorate Degree)  
Special Licensed Psychologist (Doctorate Degree)

For Information Contact:  
State of NEBRASKA  
Credentialing Division  
PO Box 94986

Lincoln, NE 68509

402-471-2117

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